

SENATE BILL 2898

By Tracy

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
relative to teacher evaluations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-302(d), is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivisions:

(7)

(A) The criteria and guidelines adopted by the state board under subdivision (d)(2) shall not adopt or initiate evaluations that rate teachers and principals through the use of any term in which the word "expectations" appears or through the use of a numbering or cumulative point assessment in any section or component of the evaluation system.

(B) The state board shall adopt and initiate an evaluation system that uses clear and concise standards for content, learning objectives and evaluation guidelines. The standards shall be explicitly defined in writing and made available to all teachers, principals and evaluators before any evaluations may occur.

(C) The scoring and grading criteria for all sections and components of the teacher and principal evaluation system and for the final summative report shall use the assessment terminology "exceeds standards", "meets standards" or "does not meet standards".

(8)

(A) Teachers and principals with more than ten (10) years of teaching experience in the public schools of this state shall be observed one (1) time

during a school year. Additional observations may be required at the discretion of the evaluator.

(B) Teachers and principals with not less than six (6) years to not more than ten (10) years of teaching experience in the public schools of this state shall be observed two (2) times during a school year. Additional observations may be required at the discretion of the evaluator.

(C) Teachers and principals with five (5) or fewer years of teaching experience in the public schools of this state shall be observed three (3) times during the school year. Additional observations may be required at the discretion of the evaluator.

(D) Administrators may reduce in any school year the total number of observations on any or all teachers and principals who have ten (10) or fewer years of teaching experience by one (1) observation, if:

(i) School safety is being compromised by the performance of the required observations, because of insufficient time or personnel to do the observations; or

(ii) A teacher or principal consistently exceeds standards on previous observations.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-302(d)(2)(A)(iii), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(iii) Notwithstanding subdivisions (d)(2)(A)(i) and (ii), if a particular teacher's or principal's student growth data, as described in subdivision (d)(2)(A)(i), reflects high level of attainment, then such student growth data may, at the choice of the individual being evaluated, comprise the full fifty percent (50%) of the individual's quantitative evaluation.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-302(d)(2)(A), is amended by adding the following language as new subdivision (iv):

(iv) If a teacher's or principal's student growth data is not derived from individual student TVAAS scores, then the individual being evaluated may choose for the

individual's qualitative evaluation data to comprise eighty-five (85%) of the evaluation in accordance with standards set by the state board.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-503, is amended by deleting subdivision (4) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(4) Has received evaluations demonstrating an overall performance that "exceeds standards" for the final summative report as provided under § 49-1-302(d)(7)(C), during the last two (2) years of the probationary period; and

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.